

In the Claims:

1. A method for providing text-to-speech conversion for an electronic book displayed on a viewer, comprising:

displaying a page of an electronic book on the viewer, the page including text;  
receiving a selection of text on the displayed page for conversion to speech; and  
converting at least a portion of the selected text into the corresponding speech.

2. The method of claim 1, further including pausing the conversion of the text.

3. The method of claim 2, further including resuming the conversion of the text.

4. The method of claim 1, further including providing a definition, in speech form, of a word selected by a user within the text.

5. The method of claim 1, further including permitting a user to adjust a rate of the conversion to the speech.

6. The method of claim 1, further including permitting a user to select a particular type of voice for the corresponding speech.

7. A method for providing text-to-speech conversion for an electronic book displayed on a viewer, comprising:

displaying a page of an electronic book on the viewer, the page including text;  
receiving a selection of text on the displayed page for conversion to speech; and  
converting at least a portion of the selected text into corresponding speech,

wherein the connecting steps comprises accessing an audio file corresponding to the selected text.

1       8.     A method for providing text-to-speech conversion for an electronic book  
2       displayed on a viewer, comprising:

3             displaying a page of an electronic book on a viewer, the page including text;  
4             receiving information relating to a text-to-speech function of the electronic book;  
5             converting at least of a portion the text on the displayed page into corresponding  
6       speech based upon the information; and

7             automatically displaying a next page of the electronic book and converting at least  
8       a portion of text on the next page into corresponding speech.

9       9.     The method of claim 8, further including pausing the conversion of the text.

10      10.    The method of claim 9, further including resuming the conversion of the text.

11      11.    A method for providing text-to-speech conversion for an electronic book  
12      displayed on a viewer, comprising:

13             displaying a page of an electronic book on a viewer, the page including text;  
14             receiving information relating to a text-to-speech function of the electronic book;  
15             converting at least of a portion the text on the displayed page into corresponding  
16      speech based upon the information; and

17             automatically converting at least a portion of text into corresponding speech on  
18      another page of the electronic book upon receiving a selection of another page.

19      12.    The method of claim 11, further including pausing the conversion of the text.

20      13.    The method of claim 12, further including resuming the conversion of the text.

21      14.    A method for receiving commands for executing functions related to an electronic  
22      book displayed on a viewer, comprising:

1 displaying a page of an electronic book on a viewer;  
2 receiving an audible command relating to a function of the electronic book;  
3 converting the audible command into a corresponding electronic signal; and  
4 executing the function in response to the electronic signal.

5 15. The method of claim 14, wherein the receiving step includes receiving a turn page  
6 command.

7 16. The method of claim 14, wherein the receiving step includes receiving an open  
8 book command.

9 17. The method of claim 14, further including displaying an indication of available  
10 audible commands.

11 18. A method for performing dictation into an electronic book displayed on a viewer,  
12 comprising:

13 displaying a page of an electronic book on a viewer;  
14 providing a text insertion cursor for designating a text insertion point;  
15 receiving speech from a user;  
16 converting the speech into corresponding electronic text;  
17 displaying the text on the viewer; and  
18 inserting the text into the electronic book.

19 19. The method of claim 18, wherein the inserting step includes inserting the text into  
20 the electronic book at a location identified by the user using the cursor.

21 20. A method for restricting access to an electronic book for display on a viewer,  
22 comprising:

1 storing an electronic book for display on a viewer;  
2 receiving an audible command from a user relating to a function of the electronic  
3 book;  
4 converting the audible command into a corresponding electronic signal; and  
5 providing authorization to execute commands from the user relating to the  
6 electronic book only if the electronic signal satisfies particular criteria.

7 21. The method of claim 20, wherein the displaying step includes comparing the  
8 electronic signal to a stored electronic signal relating to the user.

9 22. An apparatus for providing text-to-speech conversion for an electronic book  
10 displayed on a viewer, comprising:

11 a display that displays a page of an electronic book on a viewer, the page  
12 including text;

13 a selection module that receives a selection of text on the displayed page for the  
14 conversion to speech; and

15 a conversion module that converts at least of a portion of the selected text into  
16 corresponding speech.

17 23. The apparatus of claim 22, further including a pause module that pauses the  
18 conversion of the text.

19 24. The apparatus of claim 23, further including a resume module that resumes the  
20 conversion of the text.

21 25. The apparatus of claim 22, further including a dictionary module that provides a  
22 definition, in speech form, of a word selected by a user within the text.

1 26. The apparatus of claim 22, further including a rate module that permits a user to  
2 adjust a rate of the conversion to the speech.

3 27. The apparatus of claim 22, further including a voice options module that permits  
4 a user to select a particular type of voice for the corresponding speech.

5 28. An apparatus for providing text-to-speech conversion for an electronic book  
6 displayed on a viewer, comprising:

7 a display that displays a page of an electronic book on a viewer, the page  
8 including text;

9 a selection module that receives a selection of text on the displayed page for the  
10 conversion to speech; and

11 a conversion module that converts at least of a portion of the selected text into  
12 corresponding speech, wherein the conversion module includes an audio access module  
13 that accesses an audio file corresponding to the selected text.

14 29. An apparatus for providing text-to-speech conversion for an electronic book  
15 displayed on a viewer, comprising:

16 a first conversion display that displays a page of an electronic book on a viewer,  
17 the page including text;

18 a display module that receives information relating to a text-to-speech function  
19 of the electronic book;

20 a second conversion module that converts at least of a portion the text on the  
21 displayed page into corresponding speech based upon the information;

22 a module that automatically displays a next page of the electronic book; and

23 a module that automatically converts at least a portion of text on the next page  
24 into corresponding speech.

1 30. The apparatus of claim 29, further including a pause module that pauses the  
2 conversion of the text.

3 31. The apparatus of claim 30, further including a resume module that resumes the  
4 conversion of the text.

5 32. An apparatus for providing text-to-speech conversion for an electronic book  
6 displayed on a viewer, comprising:

7 a display that displays a page of an electronic book on a viewer, the page  
8 including text;

9 a receive module that receives information relating to a text-to-speech function  
10 of the electronic book;

11 a conversion module that converts at least of a portion the text on the displayed  
12 page into corresponding speech based upon the information; and

13 a display module that automatically converts at least a portion of text into  
14 corresponding speech on another page of the electronic book upon receiving a selection  
15 of another page.

16 33. The apparatus of claim 32, further including a pause module that pauses the  
17 conversion of the text.

18 34. The apparatus of claim 33, further including a resume module that resumes the  
19 conversion of the text.

20 35. An apparatus for receiving commands for executing functions related to an  
21 electronic book displayed on a viewer, comprising:

22 a display that displays a page of an electronic book on a viewer;

1           a receive module that receives an audible command relating to a function of the  
2       electronic book;  
3           a conversion module that converts the audible command into a corresponding  
4       electronic signal; and  
5           an execute module that executes the function in response to the electronic signal.

6       36.    The apparatus of claim 35, wherein the receive module includes a page turn  
7       module that receives a turn page command.

8       37.    The apparatus of claim 35, wherein the receive module includes an open book  
9       module that receives an open book command.

10      38.    The apparatus of claim 35, further including a display commands module that  
11      displays an indication of available audible commands.

12      39.    An apparatus for performing dictation into an electronic book displayed on a  
13      viewer, comprising:

14           a display that displays a page of an electronic book on a viewer;  
15           a receive module that receives speech from a user;  
16           a commands module that converts the speech into corresponding electronic text;  
17      and  
18           an insertion module that inserts the text into the electronic book.

19      40.    The apparatus of claim 39, wherein the insertion module includes an insertion  
20      point module that inserts the text into the electronic book at a location identified by the  
21      user.

1       41.     An apparatus for restricting access to an electronic book for display on a viewer,  
2       comprising:

3             a store module that stores an electronic book for display on a viewer;

4             a receive module that receives an audible command from a user relating to a  
5       function of the electronic book;

6             a conversion module that converts the audible command into a corresponding  
7       electronic signal; and

8             an authorization module that provides authorization to execute commands from  
9       the user relating to the electronic book only if the electronic signal satisfies particular  
10      criteria.

11      42.     The apparatus of claim 41, further comprising a display module, wherein the  
12      display module includes a compare module that compares the electronic signal to a stored  
13      electronic signal relating to the user.

14      43.     A method for electronically displaying a page of an electronic book on a viewer  
15      and permitting a user to request a text-to-speech function, comprising:

16             displaying a screen on a viewer;

17             displaying within the screen a page of an electronic book, the page including text;

18             permitting a user to identify at least a portion of the text displayed within the  
19      screen; and

20             displaying a section within the screen for permitting the user to request a text-to-  
21      speech conversion of the identified text.

22      44.     The method of claim 43, further including displaying a section for permitting a  
23      user to request a definition, in speech form, of a word identified in the text.



1 45. The method of claim 43, further including displaying a section for permitting a  
2 user to request that the text-to-speech conversion be paused.

3 46. The method of claim 45, further including displaying a section for permitting a  
4 user to request that the text-to-speech conversion be resumed.

5 47. The method of claim 43, further comprising displaying an image on the screen  
6 after the text-to-speech conversion begins.

7 48. The method of claim 47, wherein the image is one of a JPEG file and a MPEG 2  
8 file.

9 49. The method of claim 43, further comprising adjusting a rate of text-to-speech  
10 audible response based on a command received by the user.

11 50. The method of claim 43, further comprising:  
12 converting an electronic book menu system text to speech;  
13 providing menu navigation prompts as audible signals; and  
14 receiving audible commands from the user based on the received prompts.

15 51. A screen for use in electronically displaying a page of an electronic book on a  
16 viewer and permitting a user to request a text-to-speech function, comprising:  
17 a screen for display on a viewer;  
18 a section within the screen for displaying a page of an electronic book, the page  
19 including text and the section permitting a user to identify at least a portion of the text  
20 displayed within the screen; and  
21 a convert section within the screen for permitting the user to request a text-to-  
22 speech conversion of the identified text.

1       52.     The screen of claim 51, further including a define section for permitting a user to  
2       request a definition, in speech form, of a word identified in the text.

3       53.     The screen of claim 51, further including a pause section for permitting a user to  
4       request that the text-to-speech conversion be paused.

5       54.     The screen of claim 53, further including a resume section for permitting a user  
6       to request that the text-to-speech conversion be resumed.

7       55.     A method for electronically displaying a page of an electronic book on a viewer  
8       and permitting a user to request a speech-to-text function, comprising:  
9             displaying a screen on a viewer;  
10            displaying within the screen a page of an electronic book; and  
11            displaying a section within the screen for permitting a user to request a speech-to-  
12       text conversion for insertion of text into the displayed page of the electronic book.

13      56.     The method of claim 55, further including displaying a section within the screen  
14      for the user to request an end to the speech-to-text conversion.

15      57.     A screen for use in electronically displaying a page of an electronic book on a  
16      viewer and permitting a user to request a speech-to-text function, comprising:  
17             a screen for display on a viewer;  
18             a section within the screen for displaying a page of an electronic book; and  
19             a begin dictation section within the screen for permitting a user to request a  
20      speech-to-text conversion for insertion of text into the displayed page of the electronic  
21      book.

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